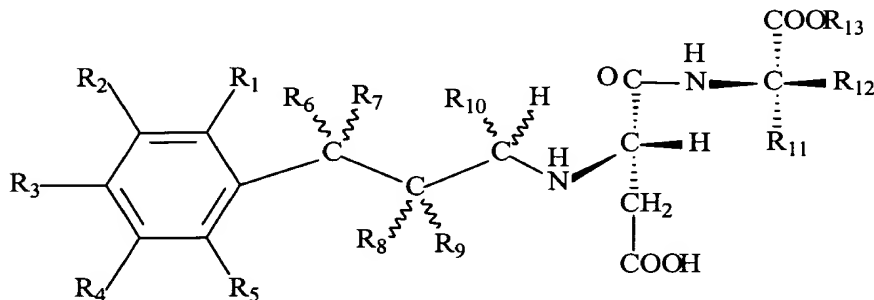


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An N-alkylaspartyl dipeptide ester compound, and salts thereof, represented by the formula (1):



wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are independent from each other, selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms and a hydroxy alkyloxy group having two or three carbon atoms, and R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, optionally, form a methylene dioxy group, and R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub>, and R<sub>1</sub> or R<sub>3</sub> which do not form the methylene dioxy group are defined as above;

R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> are independent from each other, a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group with 1 to 3 carbon atoms; and optionally, two of R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> may combine to form an alkylene group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> which do not form the alkylene group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms are defined as above;

R<sub>11</sub> is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a benzyl group, a p-hydroxy benzyl group, a cyclohexyl methyl group, a phenyl group, a cyclohexyl group, a phenyl ethyl group and a cyclohexyl ethyl group;

R<sub>12</sub> is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom and an alkyl group with 1 to 3 carbon atoms; and

R<sub>13</sub> is selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups with 1 to 4 carbon atoms; with the proviso that the following are excluded:

where R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> are hydrogen atoms at the same time,

where R<sub>6</sub> is a methyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are a hydrogen atom at the same time and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group or a p-hydroxy benzyl group, at the same time; and

where R<sub>2</sub> or R<sub>4</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>10</sub> is a methyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> or R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> are hydrogen atoms at the same time, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group or a p-hydroxy benzyl group.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 3 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 5 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methoxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups and R<sub>11</sub> is a p-hydroxy benzyl group.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups and R<sub>11</sub> is a cyclohexyl methyl group.

Claim 8 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 9 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 10 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and

R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 11 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 12 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 13 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 14 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 15 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 16 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methyl group, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 17 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> combine to form a methylene dioxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 18 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 19 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 20 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 21 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> combine to form a tetramethylene group, R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group, and R<sub>13</sub> is a methyl group.

Claim 22 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> are methyl groups, R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group, and R<sub>13</sub> is an ethyl group.

Claim 23 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are hydroxyl groups, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein when R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> differ, the carbon atom to which R<sub>6</sub> is linked in said formula is in the (R), (S) or (RS) configuration.

Claim 26 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein when R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> differ, the carbon atom to which R<sub>8</sub> is linked is in the (R), (S) or (RS) configuration.

Claim 27 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 13, wherein when R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> differ the carbon atom to which R<sub>8</sub> is linked is in the (R), (S) or (RS) configuration.

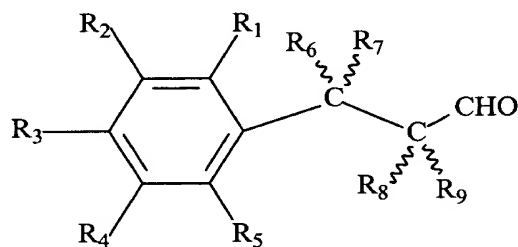
Claim 28 (Original): The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein when R<sub>10</sub> is a substituent other than a hydrogen atom, the configuration of the carbon atom to which R<sub>10</sub> is linked in said formula (1) is in the (R), (S) or (RS) configuration.

Claim 29 (Original): A composition comprising at least one compound of claim 1 and a carrier or bulking agent.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A method of imparting sweetness into a substance comprising adding at least one compound of claim 1 to said substance, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of a food item, a beverage, a soft-drink, a fruit juice, a tea, water, a confectionery, chewing gum, a hygiene product, a toiletry, a cosmetic, a pharmaceutical product and a veterinary product.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A method of producing a compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>10</sub> is a hydrogen atom comprising:

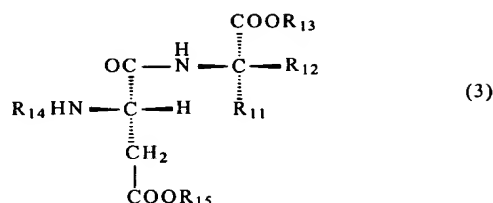
reacting under reductive alkylation conditions an aldehyde having the formula (2):



(2)

wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> have the same meanings as R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>,

R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub>, respectively in the above formula (1), with an aspartame compound having the formula (3):



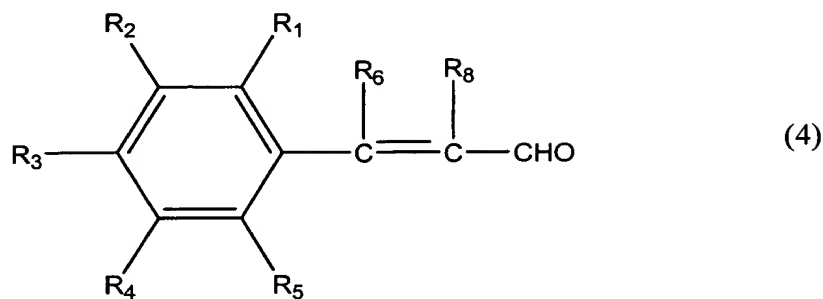
wherein R<sub>11</sub>, R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> in formula (3) have the same meanings as R<sub>11</sub>, R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> in formula (1), R<sub>14</sub> is a hydrogen atom or a substituent which can be converted into a hydrogen atom under hydrogenation conditions and R<sub>15</sub> is a hydrogen atom, benzyl group or a substituent which may be used to protect a carboxyl group.

Claim 32 (Original): The method as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>15</sub> is a t-butyl group.

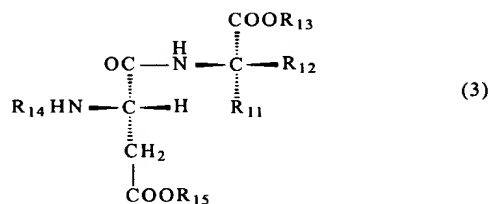
Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A method of producing a compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> are a hydrogen atom comprising:

reacting under reductive alkylation conditions an aldehyde having the formula (4):





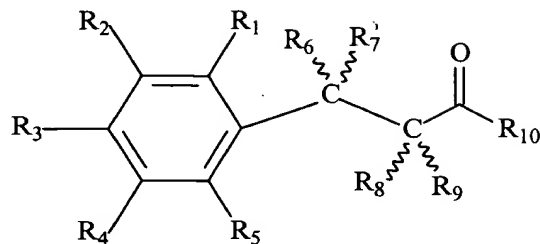
with an aspartame compound having the formula (3):



wherein  $R_{11}$ ,  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  in formula (3) have the same meanings as  $R_{11}$ ,  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  in formula (1),  $R_{14}$  is a hydrogen atom or a substituent which can be converted into a hydrogen atom under hydrogenation conditions and  $R_{15}$  is a hydrogen atom, benzyl group or a substituent which may be used to protect a carboxyl group.

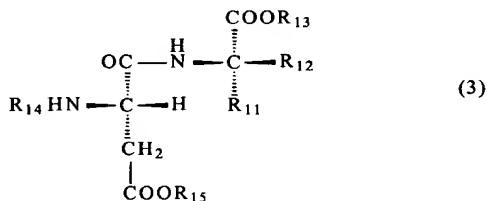
Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A method of producing a compound as defined in claim 1, comprising:

reacting under reductive alkylation conditions an aldehyde having the formula (5):



(5)

wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ ,  $R_8$ ,  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  have the same meanings as  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ ,  $R_8$ ,  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$ , respectively in formula (1);  
 with an aspartame compound having the formula (3):



(3)

wherein  $R_{11}$ ,  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  in formula (3) have the same meanings as  $R_{11}$ ,  $R_{12}$  and  $R_{13}$  in formula (1),  $R_{14}$  is a hydrogen atom or a substituent which can be converted into a hydrogen atom under hydrogenation conditions and  $R_{15}$  is a hydrogen atom, benzyl group or a substituent which may be used to protect a carboxyl group.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 29, wherein said carrier or bulking agent is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of polydextrose, starch, maltodextrines, cellulose, methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose and

other cellulose compounds, sodium alginate, pectins, gums, lactose, maltose, glucose, sucrose, leucine, glycerole, mannitol, sorbitol, xylitol, and erythritol.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups and R<sub>11</sub> is a p-hydroxy benzyl group.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups and R<sub>11</sub> is a cyclohexyl methyl group.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 49 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methyl group, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 51 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> combine to form a methylene dioxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl group, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>3</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> combine to form a tetramethylene group, R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group, and R<sub>13</sub> is a methyl group.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub>, R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> are methyl groups, R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group, and R<sub>13</sub> is an ethyl group.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein R<sub>2</sub> is a hydroxyl group, R<sub>3</sub> is a methoxy group, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> are hydrogen atoms, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> are methyl groups, and R<sub>11</sub> is a benzyl group.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are hydroxyl groups,  $R_1$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_8$ ,  $R_9$ ,  $R_{10}$  and  $R_{12}$  are hydrogen atoms,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_{13}$  are methyl groups, and  $R_{11}$  is a benzyl group.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein when  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  differ, the carbon atom to which  $R_6$  is linked in said formula is in the (R), (S) or (RS) configuration.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein when  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  differ, the carbon atom to which  $R_8$  is linked is in the (R), (S) or (RS) configuration.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein when  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  differ the carbon atom to which  $R_8$  is linked is in the (R), (S) or (RS) configuration.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 34, wherein when  $R_{10}$  is a substituent other than a hydrogen atom, the configuration of the carbon atom to which  $R_{10}$  is linked in said formula (1) is in the (R), (S) or (RS) configuration.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 31, 33, and 34 have been amended.

The amendment of Claims 31, 33, and 34 is supported by page 10, line 10 to page 11, line 29 and the Examples.

No new matter is believed to have been entered by the present amendment.